Newsletter No. 41, June 2020

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1. Report from the NZASIA President

Since my last report in December, the global situation has changed dramatically with COVID-19. Across Asia, in particular, we have seen varied responses to the pandemic. Some governments, such as Vietnam’s, have shown great leadership and humanity in stopping its spread. Others, like China’s, appear to have been effective in stopping transmission, but also used the opportunity to push for an effective takeover of Hong Kong. Still others, such as India’s, have failed miserably. Across the world, the effectiveness of responses to COVID-19 has become a grim litmus test of national governance. Sadly, in many cases, a tragic consequence of COVID-19 has been to magnify existing racial, economic and gender inequalities.

While we have been in lockdown, the NZASIA Executive has been meeting regularly via zoom. Two exciting initiatives are currently underway. The first, led by Lorraine Wong, is the building of a new, robust and attractive website. This has involved considerable work on Lorraine’s part in scoping out several possible website providers as well as overseeing project design and content migration. I thank Lorraine for her commitment and leadership of this project.

The second major project involves journal editor Rick Weiss in discussion with various publishers about taking on New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies. As you will appreciate, with COVID-19, our timing hasn’t been the best, but I am confident that Rick will be able to come up with some useful options. I thank Rick for his work on this.

Finally, I would like to remind those of you who haven’t already, that the NZASIA subscriptions are due soon. I’m sure Naimah will be in touch with you soon.

James Beattie  
Victoria University of Wellington  
President, NZASIA


As always, thanks to those of you who continue to be involved with NZJAS, either as authors, book reviewers, or manuscript referees. Without your help, we would not be able to continue to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed articles and book reviews.

We continue to communicate with publishers who may potentially host the journal. The process has gone on longer than anticipated and has involved exchanges with several university and commercial publishers. I expect that we will have some clarity soon.

It is a little late, but the December 2019 issue is now at the printers. You can expect to have received your copy before the end of June. The table of contents is below:

“Economics, Security and Mongolia’s Interests Toward the Korean Peninsula,” by ANTHONY RINNA, p. 57.

There will also be book reviews appearing in this issue. As usual, it is a fascinating collection of research articles, and I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Best wishes,

Rick Weiss
Editor, NZJAS

3. Regional Updates

Many of our fellow academics are under considerable stress at the moment due to COVID-19 impacts so there are some centres which will provide a full end of year update, rather than a biannual one now.

3.1 Auckland University of Technology

Staff movements:

Sharyn Davies is moving to become Director of the Herb Feith Indonesia Engagement Centre at Monash University, starting 13 July

Publications and presentations:
Martin, Nelly:

Was an invited panellist at an event organised by the Centre of Religion, Pluralism and Democracy of Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga, Indonesia on Wednesday, 3 June 2020, from 4-6 pm NZ time (11:00 AM - 1:00 pm Indonesian time). The title of the panel was "Menghindari "Perampokan" Akademik: Etika Publikasi Ilmiah di Perguruan Tinggi" (How to avoid "the academic theft": Ethics and Integrity in the tertiary education). There are three panelists:
Jonathan Lassa, Ph.D. Charles Darwin University, Australia
Nelly Martin-Anatias, Ph.D. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
Neil Rupidara, Ph.D. Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana, Indonesia

Davies, Sharyn:
Sharyn Davies and Najmah presented a podcast on HIV and Covid in Indonesia: https://soundcloud.com/user-451137897/covid19-and-hiv-aids-in-indonesia

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3.2 University of Canterbury

Asian artworks at the Macmillan Brown Library to be showcased online

The Macmillan Brown Library at the University of Canterbury (UC) holds a small collection of Asian works within the University’s Art Collection. While modest, these works are highly valued and are integrated into teaching at UC, alongside other Asian materials in the library collection.

A new Asian art collection showcase on UC’s art and heritage database Kā Kohika is under development and will be available for teaching and research from Semester 2. The online showcase allows the collection to be easily searchable and viewed in one place and will be available at www.kohika.canterbury.ac.nz.

The image on the right shows a Japanese print on paper by Toyohara Kunichika (1835-1900), *The Tomoeya Restaurant in Daidaichi, with the Geisha Shichi of Yanagibashi from the series Thirty-six Restaurants of Tokyo* (‘Tōkei sanjūroku kaiseki’), 1870-78, University of Canterbury Art Collection, UC-MBL-2701

New Zealand South Asia Centre (NZSAC)
The Director, Kuntal Das, reports the following publications and student achievements for NZSAC members.

**Arindam Basu (Health Sciences)** recently co-edited the following book:
He will be doing a presentation on India’s response to Covid-19 at NZIRI on 10 June, 2020, “Can India dodge the bullet”.

**Kuntas Das (Economics and Finance)** published two articles:
Priya Mohan: (PhD student, Health Sciences) recently published:

Priya was on the organising committee for the Postgraduate showcase hosted by the College of Education, Health and Human Development, University of Canterbury.

Recent PhDs

Departmental News
The Japanese Programme reports that Alistair Swale has been on a prestigious Nichibunken fellowship since last July engaged as a leader in a large project titled, “Popular Culture and ‘Civilization and Enlightenment’: The Role of Mass Media in the Turbulent Transition from Edo to Meiji” ([http://research.nichibun.ac.jp/pc1/en/coop/archives/s493/](http://research.nichibun.ac.jp/pc1/en/coop/archives/s493/)). Due to Covid-19, the project has been extended for FY 2020 and will continue online until it is possible to reconvene for a symposium, possibly at the end of the year. Recent publications include the book chapter, “Daiei Teikoku no Masu Media to Meiji no Taishū Shinbun・Nishikie” (大英帝国のマスメディアと明治の大衆新聞・錦絵) in Takii Kazuhiro (ed.) *Meiji to iu Isan* (『「明治」という遺産), Minerva Shobō, 2020, pp. 532 - 551.

Postgraduate, Zea Rose, has just been awarded the degree of Master of Arts with Distinction for her thesis on the Karafuto Ainu titled, *Lights of Okhotsk: A Partial Translation and Discussion in Regard to the Ainu/Enchiw of Karafuto*.

Graduates from the Japanese Programme (also completed double degrees), Ieuan Van der Peet and Keat Beamsley, recently headed off to Japan on prestigious MEXT Postgraduate Scholarships to conduct research there.

Richard Bullen (Art History and Theory) and James Beattie (VoW) published the following book chapter: “Japonisme in New Zealand, 1870s-1940s ‘A ‘present tendency...to possess ‘something Japanese’’, in *Exporting Japanese Aesthetics: evolution from tradition to cool Japan* (eds. Tets Kimura and Jennifer Harris), Sussex Academic Press (2020), 61-79. Richard was scheduled to present a paper on the art made by Japanese POWs held in Featherston during WWII at the 35th Congress of Comite International d’Histoire de ‘Art (CIHA) in Sao Paulo in September, but the congress has been postponed until 2021.
Pascale Hatcher (Political Science and International Relations) published the following:


She has the following articles under review:


Her new projects and collaborations include:

- With A. Bebbington, D. Humphrey, G. Banks and J. Lander, ‘the role of the state in extractivism’.

She was awarded the following grants:


Conference participation (accepted by cancelled/delayed in light of Covid-19)


Naimah Talib (Political Science and International Relations) published the following book chapter, Refashioning the Monarchy in Brunei: Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin and the Quest for Royal Absolutism, in Monarchies and Decolonisation in Asia (eds. Robert Aldrich and Cindy McCreery), Manchester University Press (2020), 134-151. She gave a talk on Malaysian politics hosted by the Asia New Zealand Foundation on 18 March to a group of Social Science teachers at Burnside High School, Christchurch.

Alex Tan (Political Science and International Relations) published the following article recently: Tan, A.C., Ho, K. and Clark, C. (2020). The political economy of Taiwan’s regional relations. Asian Affairs: An American Review. On 26 May, Alex participated, together with Charles Finny (New Zealand-Taiwan Business Council), in a webinar on New Zealand-Taiwan relations in the post-Covid 19 era. The webinar was co-hosted by the New Zealand-Taiwan Business Council, the Southeast Asia Research Initiative (University of Canterbury), the NZ Contemporary China Research Centre (Victoria University of Wellington) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Wellington.

Wei Teng (Chinese) published the following article:

He also successfully defended his PhD:

Recent PhDs (Political Science and International Relations)

3.3 Massey University

Publications:

3.4 University of Otago

Publications:


Voci, P. "Activist sinology and accented documentary: China on the (Italian?) internet" Modern Italy, Volume 24, Special Issue 4 Italianerie: Transculturality, Co-creation and Transforming Identities between Italy and Asia, November 2019 , pp. 437-456


Will Sweetman

3.5 Victoria University of Wellington

New Appointments

Catherine Churchman returns to lecturing in the Asian Languages and Cultures Programme on July 1 after a year and a half working as an analyst for the New Zealand government. Welcome back Cathy!

Also, we are pleased to announce Sara Rahmani has joined us as a new lecturer in Religious Studies since December 2019. Welcome Sara!

New Publications

- Philip Fountain’s co-edited book (with Giuseppe Bolotta and R. Michael Feener), Political theologies and development in Asia: Transcendence, sacrifice, and aspiration, has been published from Manchester University Press. (https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526149404/)

- Stephen Epstein’s translation of The Wandering by Intan Paramaditha was published by Harvill Secker in February. For reviews, see https://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/translationswomen/2020/02/12/intan-paramaditha-
Former PhD student, Sue Ann Teo has published a new article: The politics of sacred place-making: a two-window container Hindu temple in Malaysia in *South Asian Diaspora* (https://doi.org/10.1080/19438192.2020.1748417).


**Fellowship**

James Beattie has received a Global Academic Fellowship, University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong.

**New Zealand India Research Institute**

The New Zealand India Research Institute, Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) jointly hosted with the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS) an International Conference, ‘India: Seventy Years of the Republic’ on 24-25 February 2020 at Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus, Victoria University of Wellington. The conference was attended by over forty people including our guest speakers, Dr Ornit Shani (University of Haifa), Dr Abhinav Chandrachud (Advocate, Mumbai High Court), Professor Farrah Ahmed (University of Melbourne; Editor, Indian Law Review), Professor Robin Jeffrey (National University of Singapore), Associate Professor Gyanesh Kudaisya (National University of Singapore) and Dr Ronojoy Sen (National University of Singapore). The conference was a massive success with some significant discussions on the topics like citizenship, freedom of the media, regionalism, functioning of the parliament, tribal welfare, youth development and food security.

In May, the Institute initiated a webinar series, ‘Conversation in the days of pandemic’ to continue with academic discussions that were affected by the pandemic. In the aftermath of pandemic and subsequent closure of Universities across New Zealand, Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, Director, NZIRI, initiated the webinar series to continue with our monthly seminars (now webinars). The Institute has so far successfully held four webinars and one more scheduled in June. The webinar series has been a success with attendees participating from New Zealand, India, Australia, USA, Sweden, Taiwan and Bangladesh. The webinar series will be continued throughout the year.
Recent Webinars:

19 May, 0900 AM - Professor Sumit Ganguly, (Indiana University, Bloomington) - ‘India’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic: Managing or mangling a crisis?’

27 May, 0400 PM - Associate Professor Jacqueline Leckie, University of Otago - “Are We One? Unmasking Kiwi-Indian Exclusion”.

3 June: Book Discussion of 'An Imperial Disaster: The Bengal Cyclone of 1876' by its author, Dr. Benjamin Kingsbury with Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (Director, NZIRI) and Ms. Meera Muralidharan (Teaching Fellow, VUW)

10 June: COVID-19 -- will India “dodge the bullet”? by Associate Professor Arindam Basu (University of Canterbury) with panellists Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (Director, NZIRI) and Associate Professor Sita Venkateswar (Massey University).

24 June: Professor Ranabir Samaddar (Calcutta Research Group) will discuss his recent edited book, *Borders of an Epidemic: Covid-19 and Migrant Workers* (2020) with panellists Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (Director, NZIRI) and Associate Professor Douglas Hill (University of Otago).

*Shin Takahashi*
4 New Books


This multidisciplinary collection examines the connections between education, migration and translation across school and higher education sectors, and a broad range of socio-geographical contexts. Organised around the themes of knowledge, language, mobility, and practice, it brings together studies from around the world to offer a timely critique of existing practices that privilege some ways of knowing and communicating over others.


This book is the first to systematically examine Chinese refugee law and policy. Drawing upon both existing scholarships and empirical information acquired through field visits and interviews, it provides in-depth legal and policy analysis and makes recommendations to relevant stakeholders.
Meera G Muralidharan and Bolin Hu received first and second prize respectively for their papers based on their PhD research. We profile them here.

Meera G Muralidharan is currently a final year doctoral candidate and Teaching Fellow in History at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW). She also works as an Administrator for the New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI). Her doctoral research, ‘Power without Patronage: The Knowledge Making Endeavours of the Dutch East India Company in Malabar (1663-1795) examines the history of botany and mapmaking traditions in the Dutch Republic in the backdrop of Dutch East India Company spice trade in Malabar. Her research interests lie in the histories of science, botany, medicine, environment and European trade in early modern and modern South Asia.

She has double Masters in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and Institute of History, Leiden University, The Netherlands. While a student at Leiden, she developed interest in the early modern culture of the Dutch Republic and history of the Dutch East India Company. In Leiden, she worked on the missionary literature on South India. Her Master’s thesis in Leiden on the circulation of texts and narrative traditions across the Indian Ocean was shortlisted for the International Institute of Asian Studies Master’ Thesis Award (2015). After a year of teaching History in Kerala, she joined Victoria for her PhD under the supervision of Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Ass. Prof. James Beattie. During her PhD, she won several accolades for her research and presentations. She is a recipient of VUW Research Excellence Award (2019), Postgraduate Essay Prize (NZASIA, 2019), Best Paper Award (AAHPSS conference, 2019), Three Minutes Thesis First Prize Winner in Faculty Round (2018).

Her publications include: Cross-Cultural Interactions and Missionary Writings in the Context of the Dutch East India Company, c. 1600-72 in Malabar in the Indian Ocean: Cosmopolitanism in a Maritime Historical Region and ‘Dutch Missionary Literatures and the Creation of Brahmin Identity’ in Kerala History Congress Proceedings 2016, Book Review (Malayalam) of Cochin Forests and the Techno-Ecological Imperialism in India. She is currently working on an article on Hortus Malabaricus, a seventeenth century work of botany.
Bolin Hu is now a third-year doctoral candidate studying at the History Department of the University of Auckland (UoA). He is also a member of the project, ‘The Collection and Study on Historical Documents during the Second World War,’ led by Professor Dekun Hu, Wuhan University, China. His doctoral research, ‘All for China: The Propaganda Efforts of Chinese Government and Community in Australia, 1931–1945’, explores the transnational history of the Nanjing government and Chinese Australian community making propaganda efforts to gain the support of both Australian government and people during the Sino-Japanese War and Pacific War. His research interests include histories of medicine, Sino-Australia relation, and Chinese in Australia and New Zealand before 1949.

Bolin developed his interest in Chinese immigrants to Australia and New Zealand when he was collecting research materials in both countries for his Master in Wuhan University, China. After a year of study for PhD in Wuhan University, Bolin joined the University of Auckland for his PhD under the supervision of Associate Professor Malcolm Campbell and Professor Paul Clark.

During his PhD in Wuhan and then Auckland, Bolin won several accolades for his academic research. He is a recipient of Academic Scholarship in Wuhan University (2016), Performance-Based Research Fund (UoA, 2018), Doctoral Research Fund (UoA, 2019), Postgraduate Essay Prize (NZASIA, 2019), Dragon Tail Conference Bursary (2019), Postgraduate Scholarship (National Archives of Australia & The Australian Historical Association, 2020).
5. Membership

NZASIA members:

- Receive a subscription to the *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, which is published twice yearly;
- Regularly receive the NZASIA Newsletter, which will keep you in touch with what’s happening in the Asian Studies field in other parts of New Zealand;
- Belong to the electronic NZASIA members’ listserver, on which they can post notices and receive messages relevant to the interest and concerns of people in the Asia field; Are eligible for the discounted registration fee at NZASIA Conferences;
- Are members of a community of Asia scholars who are working constructively to advance knowledge of Asia and to expand it among New Zealanders.

Membership Fees for 2020

New Zealand subscribers:
NZ$50 for individuals (1 year) or NZ$150 (for 3 years); NZ$75 for institutions.
Australian subscribers:
AUS$55 for individuals (1 year) or AU$165 (for 3 years); AUS$75 for institutions.
All other subscribers:
US$50 for individuals (1 year) or US$150 (3 years); US$60 for institutions.
Special Subscription for Retired and Unwaged Members:
NZ$30 (1 year) or NZ$90 (3 years) for individuals only.
Associate Membership:
NZ$10 (NZ$30 for 3 years); AUS$10 (AU$30 for 3 years); US$7 (US$21 for 3 years); New Zealand-based students free (students must include a photocopy of a currently valid Student ID with their application).

If you are a new member you can use the form found on the NZASIA website: [http://www.nzasia.org.nz/membership1.html](http://www.nzasia.org.nz/membership1.html)

Please send a cheque (payable to ‘NZASIA’) for the subscription amount, along with any changes in your details or address to the Treasurer.

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NZASIA Newsletter No 41, June 2020 © NZASIA

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The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributors and not the official position of NZASIA.